

**Education Committee Hearing**  
**March 3, 2021**  
**Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director**  
**Jumoke Academy Charter School Inc.**  
**SB948**

Good afternoon all. I am Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director of Jumoke Academy Charter School Inc., Hartford, CT. I am here to speak briefly in support of SB948. As an Executive Director of a public Charter School, I know all too well the many challenges we have in charter education when it comes to funding. Additionally, when funding is not equitable for **public** charter schools compared to the funding of traditional public schools, tough decisions are made that sometimes compromise the quality of education and educational experiences that we provide for our scholars.

I am here today to ask for the support of our legislative leadership as it relates to funding our charter schools equitably based on need, no matter what zip code students live in or what **type** of school families choose. As a charter school, Jumoke Academy has done and continues to do a lot for children and families who have chosen a **public** charter education. Over the years and with limited funding, we have managed to provide the best educational experiences possible to the scholars we serve. Even though we are doing well in providing a NAEYC accredited Pre-K education to our scholars, providing STEM and Arts experiences at our themed middle school campuses, and collaborating with a local college to provide quality summer enrichment experiences focusing on exposure to college, careers, science, and manufacturing occupations in our own backyard, there is still so much more than our children need and deserve.

Imagine what might be possible for our public charter school if there was equitable funding. Our scholars would be able to have facilities that offer them some of the basics of what every public school should have such as playing fields, auditoriums, dedicated cafeteria spaces, high-quality technology systems, updated classroom furniture, and learning stations, and the best and brightest educators and leaders providing the best learning experiences available to them.

Again our children deserve these things at the very least and more! So in closing, I urge you to make the decision to support SB948 in an effort to make the aforementioned vision a reality for the children and communities we serve.